Manufacture of TBP

*278. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) the estimated project cost of the facility to manufacture high quality Tri Butyl Phosphate (TBP) for nuclear hydro-metallurgy at the heavy water plant of Talcher;

(b) whether this facility would meet the entire need of the Department of Atomic Energy;

(c) if not, what is the shortfall;

(d) whether production of heavy water for which the project was meant, is going to start; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor and the plan/strategy formulated to start production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF ATOMIC ENERGY (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) The estimated project cost of the facility to manufacture high quality Tri Butyl Phosphate (TBP) is Rs. 212 lakh.

(b) and (c) The proposed facility to manufacture high quality TBP for nuclear hydrometallurgy is primarily to meet the requirements of the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC).

(d) There is no possibility of starting production of heavy water from the Heavy Water Plant, Talcher in the near future.

(e) The production of heavy water from Talcher Plant cannot be started due to the non-availability of inputs including feed synthesis gas from the connected fertilizer plant of Fertilizer Corporation of India, which has stopped its operation. Presently a technology demonstration project is being undertaken at Heavy Water Plant (HWP), Baroda by the addition of an ammonia water exchange front end, which can make the Heavy Water Plant independent of the Fertilizer Plant. After the successful commissioning and operation of the technology demonstration unit at HWP, Baroda, a review for the revival of HWP, Talcher could be undertaken based on the new technology.